



The **GARzette**

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
January 2015 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 24, Issue 1



Happy New Year!



See page 5 for details!

Message from the President

Welcome to 2015. I remember thinking when I was young that I might live to see the year 2000. That is, if I was not too “old” to enjoy it. Well, perspectives change and here we are, as young as ever! I hope all of you had a great holiday and are as excited as I am to dig into a new year. The excitement starts early with Tech Fest and many more events to come.



great meetings with informative guests. Special event stations, on-air Nets, the Georgia QSO Party, May Madness, Field Day, and more. 2015 will be a great year to get more involved. We are always looking for volunteers to help out.

We also want to encourage our members to make suggestions for new activities and events. The first Tuesday of each month, the Tuesday before the regular GARS meeting, is the GARS executive committee meeting. If you think you have an idea for something new for GARS to get involved in you are wel-

For those of you who are new to the hobby or with GARS, I hope you see fit to get involved and participate in some of the great events the club offers. If you are not local to Gwinnett County, look into your local radio club. There are many reasons to become a ham; however, I have found the most rewarding one is involvement in club activities. There are hundreds of clubs across our nation promoting the hobby,;but, of course, I’m a little biased. There is seldom a dull moment around GARS and there is always an event to participate in.

“One of my personal goals this year includes more involvement in building up my HF log.”

One of my personal goals this year includes more involvement in building up my HF log. I tend to take it in “spurts”, but when I do work the HF rig, it is with great pleasure. It doesn’t have to be a long distance DX contact to be fun. I particularly enjoy making a contact just a few states away. The excitement never fades when you realize you can chat with someone that far away with just a wire strung up in a tree with no help from “Ma Bell” or an Internet Service Provider! GARS hopes to be able to sponsor a General Class Ham Cram sometime this year to help Technician Class hams who would like to upgrade their HF privileges. It takes more than one day of cram to get your “General”, though. When we get it planned we will let you know!

As in years past, there will be plenty of activities to get involved in. We will have lots of

come to attend and present your idea. The meetings are normally held at the Gwinnett Fire Station #5 at 6:30 pm.

I am again looking forward to working with all of you to make 2015 the best year for GARS yet.

Thanks and 73s,

Rick, N4XYY

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."



GARS January Meeting

“Sounds In Your Shack”

The Ins and Outs Of Audio

By Rick Cobb, N4XY

Tuesday January 13, 2015

6:30 pm

*- Feb meeting will be the election of officers -
Nominations are open at Jan. and Feb. meeting.*

Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1
690 Airport Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

[Directions](#)



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GARS Communications

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

D-Star

WD4STR
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)
440.550 + (5 MHz)

Main Repeater Site
Oak Street,
Lawrenceville

2 Meter Repeater

147.255(+) MHz
107.2 PL Tone

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
No PL tone

70 Cm Repeaters

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone
442.100(+)
100 PL Tone

Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain,
Snellville

**Don't forget
to support our
advertisers at the
back of the GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by email to n4gyn@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN
770-689-6620 or editor@gars.org



GARS 2014 Christmas Party Pics



TechFest 2015



2015 TechFest is Saturday January 10th

What might you see!

Atlanta Radio Club
Sawnee Amateur Radio
Southeastern VHF
Peach State QCWA
MARS
Kennehoochee ARC
NFARL
Alford Memorial Radio Club

ARES
Digital Mobile Radio/MARC
D-STAR
PSK Digital
Latest Remote Radio
New Hams? Now What?
ARRL Section Manager
and more...

Forums!

Software Defined Radio - Digital Radio Modes Defined -
National Weather Service and Ham Radio

Where?

Gwinnett Medical Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway (GA120), Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Doors will open to the public at 9:00 AM. We'll wrap things up and have final drawings about 2:00 PM

Plenty of door prizes and a raffle for a great [ICOM 7100](#) V/U/HF radio.
Purchase Raffle Tickets from WA4ZXV or KJ4CNC or at the Event.
You do not need to be present to win.

Admission is FREE, Lunch is FREE, No purchase required to win a door prize.
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE THERE!

Chili Galore! We'll have our annual **GARS Chili Cook-Off**.
Bring a crock pot full of chili to get it entered into the contest. You win bragging rights for a year!

Free coffee all day - Hot Dogs and "fixins" for lunch.

View our 2012 TechFest Video Clip(long)

View TechFest 2013 Informational Video (short)

Questions: techfest@gars.org



Beginner's Corner



The Dog Show: A chance for Beginning Hams to Shine

GARS and Gwinnett ARES help to do parking for the Cherokee Rose Cluster Dog Show twice a year. In return, the dog show hosts make a generous contribution to both organizations. We set up positions at several strategic points around the building and coordinate parking. The work is easy, and at most places you can sit down.

What is in it for new hams? The first thing is an opportunity to serve. Amateur Radio is a service. Other radio users [commercial] pay big bucks to buy a license. Ours are free, with the provision that we do public service. Second is an opportunity to get on the air for a real-world activity. I have been working the dog show for several years, and have enjoyed being a part of it. They require about fourteen people at a time to effectively police the parking lots, so there is always someone to talk to. The pace is easy, and it gives you practice (and confidence) being on the air.

Worried about making mistakes? No fear. We have all made mistakes. Hams are a forgiving bunch, especially in GARS and ARES. We all have been the “new guy” at one time or another. This exercise is not that critical, and it gives you good practice for more momentous occasions.

They divide each day into shifts, the first one starting at 6 am (oh dark thirty, for you military veterans). Yes, it is early, but we have to be in place when the cars start rolling in. The second shift starts at 10 am. Many “veteran” dog show workers work both shifts. I have gotten into the habit of doing both shifts and I love it. The dog show needs volunteers over four days, so there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Some people work both shifts over the whole four day period. I am sure some of them take vacation days to do this. Such is the volunteer spirit of Amateur Radio.

What do I bring? There is likely further information in this issue of the Garzette, but look for information on the GARS and Gwinnett ARES Yahoo groups (reflectors). Here are some of my suggestions. First, bring your HT, or two, if you have more than one. The Gwinnett ARES web site (www.gwinnettares.org) will have the frequencies listed. We will likely use the ARES portable repeater, but that is always subject to change, so bring instructions with your HT on how to set up a new frequency. The repeater has a short range, so no one outside of the dog show area will be able to hear you.



Secondly, dress warmly in layers for the event. Last year, I wore a hoodie with a nylon jacket, two pairs of socks, gloves, and a hat. It is cold and windy in the morning, but as soon as the sun comes out, it warms up, and I was able to remove layers as needed.

Snacks are a good thing to bring, but there are concessions inside. You will be able to take breaks as needed to go inside and perhaps get a warm drink. They usually give us tickets for a small lunch, but they aren't required to do so.

Hope to see a bunch of new hams out at the Dog Show. Oh, and the two main reasons to come: 1) it's FUN, and 2) the camaraderie is wonderful. See you there!

73,

David Harden,

KJ4CMY



Tips for Public Service Communicators

Here is a great set of tips from the St. Louis (Missouri) Metro ARES/RACES Group, with the permission and courtesy of EC Steve Wooten, KC0QMU, and AEC for Operations, Gary Hoffman, KB0H.

☐ Things to avoid saying on the air, Number 1

"Okay, I'll do it. But it's not actually my job. The guy who's supposed to do that is always away from the table doing something else." The other operator doesn't want to hear any of that and it ties up the frequency. Make a note of your complaints in your log and bring them up at the debriefing, but keep them off the air. -- *Gary Ross Hoffman, KB0H*

☐ The value of tactical call signs

Tactical call signs such as "Shelter 5", "Net Control", and "EOC" are descriptive and give immediate information. They can be very useful during planned events and during emergencies. Do not, however, forget to include your FCC call sign at ten minute intervals and at the end of each contact.

☐ Never alter a message

Do not alter a message, even to correct a typographical error. What you think is right may actually be wrong. Moreover, any change you make might subtly alter the meaning of the message. Send or write it exactly as you receive it.

☐ Do not use VOX

VOX stands for voice activated transmitter. VOX devices are handy gadgets, but should not be used in an emergency setting. Ambient noise might activate the transmitter and tie up the frequency. Also, you do not want your casual comments to go out over the air.

☐ You are your own safety officer

When setting up or operating a station of any size, the very first thing on your mind should be, is it safe? Am I going to irradiate anyone with RF energy? Could my battery spill acid? Can it fall on anyone's foot? Have I created an electrical hazard? Could anyone trip over my feedline or get poked in the eye by my antenna? The safety of your station is your responsibility. Make sure that it cannot harm you or anyone else. -- *KB0H*

☐ Every piece of equipment can break, including you

We all have limits. Don't overtax yourself during a deployment. Watch for signs of fatigue, stress, adverse reactions to the environment and so forth. Stop and take a break if you need one. It is better to have a silent radio than a fresh casualty. -- *KB0H*

☐ Listen to the Net Controller's instructions

One of the most common mistakes on regular nets is that operators assume that they know what the Net Controller is going to say. They miss the Net Controller's instructions and wind up giving inappropriate responses. This can be calamitous in an emergency situation. One way to develop the habit of paying attention is to write down the key elements of what the Net Controller is saying. You might be surprised to find that it's not always the same thing. --*KB0H*

☐ Keep it brief

Air time is precious, especially when there are numerous operators on the same

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Tips for Public Service Communicators (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

frequency. Refrain from over-explaining things, engaging in personal greetings and chats, and anything else that might prevent important traffic from getting through. -- *KB0H*

☐ **Are you following procedures?**

Operating procedures are developed from many hours of examining what went wrong during disasters. Familiarize yourself with the procedures and practice them in exercises. Arriving at a disaster scene and trying to freestyle it will only cause problems. -- *KB0H*

☐ **Check the transceiver for overheating**

Digital modes are great for sending forms, long lists, images and so forth. They also use a lot more duty cycles of your transceiver than ordinary voice communications. Check to make sure that your rig is not overheating. Reduce the transmit power level if your unit feels hot. --*KB0H*

☐ **Have fuses handy**

Much of your equipment has one or more fuses. Check each item, make a list of the fuses you might need, then put together a small fuse kit. Be sure to replace any fuses you wind up using. -- *KB0H*

☐ **Yes, you are ready to participate**

Caution is good, but don't let it prevent you from participating and volunteering. Everyone makes mistakes on their first try, or first dozen tries, and everyone survives them. You will find that most other hams will be sympathetic and supportive of your efforts. -- *KB0H*

☐ **Don't avoid the exercises**

It's a mistake to ignore an exercise because you are already familiar with what it is about. There are always surprises, new elements, and things that you've forgotten. Your presence will also help those participants who are less familiar with the exercise's concepts. -- *KB0H*

☐ **Keep learning**

Everything is dynamic, including emergency communications. Procedures and techniques that were standard ten years ago are out of date today. Never sit back and feel that you've learned everything you'll need to know. -- *KB0H*

☐ **You brought your radio to the emergency, but will you be able to power it?**

Antenna connectors are fairly generic, but what about power connections? ARES groups around the country use Anderson Powerpoles as the standard power connector on their equipment.

☐ **Push THEN Talk**

Pause for a second after keying up your transmitter. It may be slower to react than you realize. -- *John Weis, N0UFB*

☐ **Maintain a fire extinguisher near your battery charging station**

This applies primarily to larger batteries, but every battery is a chemical device and you

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Tips for Public Service Communicators (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

will be pumping energy into it. Having a fire extinguisher handy is a reasonable precaution. -- *Jim Conley, N0OBG*

☐ **Mark your equipment**

Be sure that every piece of your equipment is marked with at least your name and call sign. After the emergency, you'll want any property you left behind to find its way back to you.

☐ **It's going to be noisy, so have a set of headphones**

It's always a good idea to have a set of headphones around, but it may be an absolute necessity in an emergency. You may be placed in an area where other operators are working on different bands, you may be out in the open, or you may even be in the middle of a noisy shelter. A headset should be a vital part your equipment. You can't communicate if you can't hear.

☐ **Outdoors isn't indoors**

Even in an urban or suburban setting, working outdoors isn't like working indoors. You may have taken your equipment into consideration, but don't forget yourself. Think about your allergies, the sun, heat, cold, bugs and everything else that might affect you. Treat your outside deployment or exercise as if it were a camping trip and prepare for it accordingly. --*KB0H*

☐ **Think about next time**

During every deployment or exercise, think about the next time. You will always find that something is missing, broken, doesn't work as expected, wasn't planned for, and so forth. Keep a mental record, or better still, a written one of everything that is wrong. Be sure to look it over carefully after the event so you will be better prepared next time. -- *KB0H*

☐ **Eat**

Do not skip meals just because things are busy. You may not think that you need to eat anything, but volunteers have suddenly fainted without feeling any early symptoms that something was wrong. At the very least, consume an energy bar or a quick snack. --*KB0H*

☐ **Is no one responding on the secondary frequency?**

If you have a transceiver capable of handling two frequencies simultaneously and no one is responding on that second channel, the problem may be as simple as the volume has been turned down. -- *KB0H*

FROM THE ARRL E-NEWS LETTER—and from
DICKSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RADIO SIGNALS
WC4DC
<http://www.qsl.net/dicksonarc/>
Dickson County Tennessee

What is SOTA?



Summits On The Air

SOTA (Summits On The Air) is an awards program to encourage operating from the tops of mountains. "Activators" get points for operating from a summit. "Chasers" get points for contacting activators. Points are good for... counting, and not much else!

Why would I want to activate?

My XYL, certifiably smarter than me, says, "It is a perfect combination. You get to spend time outdoors *and* you get to collect shiny toys." That pretty well sums it up.

Have you ever hiked to the top of a mountain and wondered, "This is nice view. What do I do now?" Now you have a *mission*. Pull out the radio, throw a wire into a tree, and work a pile-up. When you call CQ from a summit, it seems as if *everyone* wants to talk with you.

There are a variety of awards, including the Mountain Goat award for 1000 points. Activators who achieve 1,000 points earn the Mountain Goat award. As of mid-December 2014, only 21 hams in the US have achieved this award.

Other reasons to activate:

- Tired of QRM? The nearest source of QRM is typically miles away.
- HOA restricts your antenna height? My tower is on a 4,000 foot base.
- Operating VHF? Line of sight can be 100 miles in all directions.

Why would I want to chase?

It's easy enough to work Bubba, with his QRO kilowatt and a beam pointed at you. Hone your skills pulling a 2-watt signal sent from a random wire in a tree out of thunderstorm QRN. ("I know he's there. I can hear others working him. Maybe if I narrow my filter and up the RF gain... Bingo! Got him.")

Make progress on your Worked All States award. Anywhere there's a qualified summit, sooner or later, you'll find an activator. Earn the prestigious Shack Sloth trophy. (SOTA has a sense of humor!)

With a good antenna, go after DX activators. Make contact with a ham who's clipped to a piton from a summit in the Alps. See if you can QSO with that operator who's perched on the rim of a volcano. (Yes, this happens.)

Activating or chasing isn't enough of a challenge. What else have you got?

Maybe you'd like to combine chasing *and* activating. When two activators make contact, this is a "summit-to-summit." Since you're both QRP and you're both mountain-top portable, this is even more of a challenge (and more gratifying when you succeed).

SOTA isn't fair!

It is important to note that SOTA is not about *fairness* -- it is about *participation*. There are easy 10-point summits and there are epic 1-pointers. Do not look for fairness in SOTA scoring. It isn't there. The rules of SOTA are designed to encourage participation -- to get activators activating and chasers chasing. From time to time, someone will propose a modification of the rules, to rationalize scoring. Socially, this is on par with passing gas at a dinner party!

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What is SOTA?

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But I'm not athletic and I don't have a quad at 60 feet. Can I play too?

Activation requires operating portably from a qualified SOTA summit. At a minimum, you've got to carry your equipment away from your vehicle, and you must use a battery or solar power. *Most* activations require a hike up the side of a mountain, but remember that the goal of SOTA is participation. At one extreme, you could drive to a drive-up summit, climb into a wheelchair, have a buddy pile your equipment into your lap, push you across the parking lot, and you could operate from a picnic table. At the other extreme, you could backpack 2 days into wilderness, followed by a 5 mile bushwhack, and operate from a snow-covered escarpment.

Where can I find out more?

Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>

Georgia SOTA association rules: <http://www.sota.org.uk/docs/ARM-W4G-Georgia.pdf>

Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>

My site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>

Email me: My email address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

Stay tuned. This will be a recurring series of articles.

Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat, and was the 19th North American to achieve Mountain Goat status. His first QSO was a SOTA activation on a backpacking trip to a 5300 foot summit with his 12 year-old son. He has more than 110 activations, including Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

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! NEW TIME !



For MONDAY NIGHT 2 METER

“WANT, SWAP, SELL, and INFORMATION NET”

**Starts at 7:30 Each Monday Night
on 147.075 Repeater**

How Ham Radio Works

“A teen in Florida makes friends over the airwaves with a ham in Germany. An aircraft engineer in Washington participates in an annual contest and exchanges **call signs** with **hams** in 100 countries during a single weekend. In North Carolina, volunteers pass health and welfare messages in the aftermath of a hurricane. “

To learn more, go to HOW STUFF WORKS at: <http://www.howstuffworks.com/ham-radio.htm>

Courtesy of Jeff Cutchins—AB4HF

GARS Membership Page

New GARS Members in December

HAYLEY SHAW (KK4ZJN)

New Members: 1

**Total Members as of January 1, 2015
- 285-**

**Join us for our weekly
breakfast gathering at
7:30 AM most Saturdays at:**

**Golden Corral
2155 Riverside Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
([Directions](#))**

**The following members are
celebrating birthdays
in January:**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS

Charles (Chick) Bartlett (W4CFB)
Terry Cantrell (W4WTC)
Hal Collier (W4IGE)
Randy Collins (N4COR)
Mike Cottrell (KJ4EIE)
John Craig (KK4JXU)
Barry Edwards (W4BWE)
Gregg Freeman (KK4GWG)
Kevin Highsmith (KK4WOG)
Wayne Holt (KM4FMR)
Ruth Jones (K4RHJ)
Dorothy Jubon (N2DLJ)
Yolanda Pence (KM4AAQ)
William Pettit (K4ENQ)
Grant Porter (KG4SDR)
Michael Stebnicki (KJ4PQZ)
David Thomas (N4DDT)
Joseph Trunk (AA8XR)
Newton White (N4EWT)

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter email towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new email address, new phone number, etc.), please email the Membership Committee - membership@gars.org

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Committee Members: Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS YOUR HELP

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. We need weekly participation to make our net function and to keep them interesting. We have a very small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week but we need more help.

Out of over 286 members we have only eight primary people that run the net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Mitch - N0DIM
Hal - W4IGE	Don - KK4VLO
Ray - N4GYN	
Sandy - KJ4DRO	
John - WB4QDX	
Bill - KK4AUA	

I need 40 people to fill NCS and ANCS positions. The schedule is planned and posted months in advance and is flexible. If your plans change we can and do make adjustments to make it work, and I make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. I also send out reminders each week to let you know you are scheduled for the next Monday night net. In short, we make it simple. All you need to do is show up, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record-keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at the monthly GARS meeting or, send me a message via the [Mentors & Elm-ers](#) page on the web site at www.gars.org. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73’ See you on the Nets!

Phil McCleary, N4LNE

Net Manager



**Don't miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net
Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm**



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

Jeff—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 +, PL 82.5
6m 53.110 - No Tone
70cm 442.100 + PL 100.0**

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

(All names of contests are links in .pdf version)

JANUARY 1

[Straight Key Night](#): 0000 UTC - 2359 UTC January 1

JANUARY 3-4

[RTTY Roundup](#): First full weekend of January, but never on January 1, 1800 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

JANUARY 10-11

- [North American QSO Party--CW](#)
- [UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest](#)
- [Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon](#)
- [DARC 10 Meter Contest](#)

JANUARY 24-25

[January VHF Sweepstakes](#): The third or fourth weekend in January. See the [current rules](#) for this year's exact date. 1900 UTC Saturday through 0359 UTC Monday.

FEBRUARY 21-22

[International DX Contest](#) - CW: Third full weekend in February, 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

After a run of nearly 40 years, the North American Phone Sprint has been discontinued. As new editor Pat N9RV explains in the Jan/Feb 2015 issue of the *National Contest Journal*, as a result of declining participation, "the operating experience that continues to make the CW Sprint so special is essentially lost." *NCJ* remains open to trying new and innovative contest formats, particularly for SSB operators. Past Phone Sprint participants are considering running their own version of the contest, as well, so stay tuned for future announcements.

From ARRL Web Email 12/31/14

The ARRL has published a revision to the [HF Contesting Guidelines](#). The revisions by a team of CAC members (K5KG, N3BB, K3WW, W1UE) address changes in technology that have affected HF contesting in recent years and present a current understanding of HF contesting standards and practices. (VHF+ contesting is not addressed.) Additionally, sections of the previous document were rewritten and reorganized to improve readability. The goal of the guidelines is to provide guidance and advice, especially for new contesters, and to encourage contest operation that advances the spirit and integrity of radiosport. (Thanks, George K5KG)

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Southeast US

01/10/2015 | [Techfest 2015](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.gars.org>

01/10/2015 | [Greenwood Hamfest](#)

Location: Greenwood, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Greenwood Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://w4gwd.org>

01/10/2015 | [FirstFest](#)

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4nc.com/>

02/07/2015 | [South Carolina State Convention \(Charleston Hamfest\)](#)

Location: North Charleston, SC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.wa4usn.org>

05/02/2015 | [Blue Ridge ARS's 56th Annual Hamfest](#)

Location: Spartanburg, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://brars.org>



BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, **Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

We enjoy:

- ◊ *Camping*
- ◊ *Hiking*
- ◊ *Horseback Riding*
- ◊ *Shooting Sports*

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

Steve Back, WB2OGY

Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

Phone: 770-712-9069

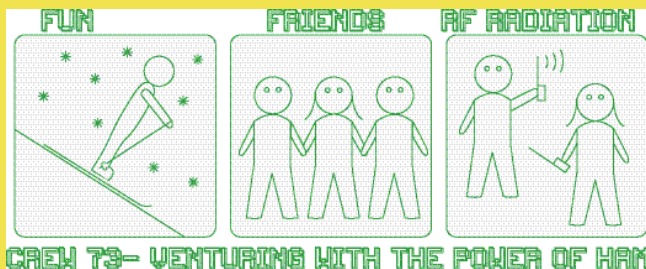
Email: committeechair@venturecrew73.org

Jeff Lee, AF4JL

Venture Crew 73 Advisor

Phone: 678-475-3165

Email: advisor@venturecrew73.org



G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

Rick Cobb, N4XYX
President



Mike Weathers, ND4V
Vice President



Allison Lynch, KZ3JFY
Secretary



Sid Weaver, N4NQ
Treasurer



Mike Smith, KK4KHS
Program Manager



Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Membership Chair



Dave Bruse, W4DTR
Ham Exam Team Leader



David Adcock, KA4KKF
Webmaster, Field Day Chair



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ
Public Information Officer



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC
TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr



Ray Bailey, N4GYN
GARzette Editor



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Mike Weathers, ND4V
WAS-Checker, Historian



Phil McCleary, N4LNE
Net Manager, ELMER Chair



Mike Swiderski, K4HBI
Technical Advisor



DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



David Adcock, KA4KKF



Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2014



GARS Recurring Calendar

- ◆ Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ◆ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

[This meeting was a small part of the Annual GARS Christmas/Holiday Party] ... Ed.

Meeting started at 7:45 pm.

Membership report
290 members

Treasurers report

New "Fusion" repeater purchased by GARS will be located at the Snellville repeater site.

TechFest will be on Jan 10th. Volunteers are needed. Norm Wa4ZXV added that TechFest raffle tickets are for sale.

Dog show will be 1/29-2/1. Volunteers are needed.

The GARS Ham Of The Year award was presented to Earl Whatley -

Meeting ended at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully,

Hal Collier, Jr - W4IGE

for

Allison Lynch, KZ3JFY, Secretary




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New Software for Ham Radio

These and MANY more at:

<http://sourceforge.net/directory/communications/hamradio/os:windows/freshness:recently-updated/>




RTLSDR Scanner

A cross platform Python frequency scanning GUI for rtl-sdr

507 weekly downloads

▼




Gpredict

Gpredict is a real-time satellite tracking and orbit prediction application....

321 weekly downloads

▼




Ham Radio Control Libraries

Library to control radio transceivers and receivers

221 weekly downloads

▼




XASTIR

Real-time tracking & messaging of stations via radio/internet APRS dat...

116 weekly downloads

▼



KB1OIQ - Andy's Ham Radio Linux

Ubuntu Linux remastered for Amateur Radio users

307 weekly downloads

▼

GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
4	5 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	6 6:30 - 8:00 pm GARS Exec Meeting	7 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	8	9	10 TECHFEST! TECHFEST! TECHFEST!
11 GARS Exam Session 2:00 PM Gwinnett County Fire Station #5 [location]	12 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	13 5:00 - 6:30 PM Dinner at Flying Machine 7:00-9:00pm GARS Meeting	14 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	15	16	17 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
18	19 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	20	21 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	22	23	24 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
25	26 7:30 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	27	28 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	29 6:00 am -2:00 pm DOG SHOW	30 6:00 am-2:00 pm DOG SHOW	31 6:00 am-2:00 pm DOG SHOW

Metro Testing Sessions

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)

VEC: WCARS

Braselton Public Utility Building

4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA

Roger Gibson, WB4T

(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560

w4rlg@bellsouth.net

First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

VEC: WCARS

Hall County EOC

470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.

Perry Roper, KO4RD

(770) 536-3056

Second Saturday

10:00 AM

Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center

13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004

Ian Kahn, KM4IK

E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com

Second Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL

8:30 a.m.

GMC Community Ctr

5325 Leon St.

Stone Mountain, GA

Frank Haynes, KV4SP

(678) 467-3712

Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm

Gwinnett County Fire Station #5

3001 Old Norcross Road

Duluth, GA 30096

Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

Email: exams@gars.org

Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm (Except December)

Lifeway Church

1654 Atlanta Highway #109

Steve Donellan, N5SMD

(404) 520-0368

Email: n5smd@comcast.net

(cont. next column)

Ham Exam Results

We had a very good test session on December 14, 2014.

7 applicants passed

3 upgraded

- 4 New Technicians
- 2 Upgraded to General
- 1 Upgraded to Extra

Thanks to the following VE's.

- ◆ Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC (Co-CVE)
- ◆ Sid Weaver, N4NQ
- ◆ Don Bagby, KK4NJM
- ◆ Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN
- ◆ David Bruse, W4DTR, CVE
- ◆ Frank Haynes, KV4SP
- ◆ Mitch Matteau N0DIM
- ◆ Nick Doemland AB4CQ
- ◆ Harold Prosser, KK1B
- ◆ Larry Whited, WB4FGF
- ◆ Rick Cobb, N4XYY
- ◆ Bob Pursley, WD4KQQ

Thanks & 73,

Don Bagby, KK4NJM

Email: exams@gars.org

GARS VE Website:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7 pm @ United Way Service Center

6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville

Jessie Clower, KB4WFK

(770) 942-6466

Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech

VanLeer Elec. Building

Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.

See www.w4aql.com

Alexander G. Carver

(404) 894-2936

acarver@ece.gatech.edu

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

Downtown Marietta

Fire Station #1, Training Room

112 Haynes Street

Marietta, Georgia 30060

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ

1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta

Meeting is at 7:30pm

Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library

Meeting is at 6:30pm

Talk In - 147.225(+)

PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218

Van Leer Electrical

Engineering Bldg.

Georgia Tech Campus

Meeting at 7:00pm

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church

Intersection of Annistown Rd &

Spain Rd

Stone Mountain

Dinner at 6:00pm

Meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club

Board Room of The

Shepherd Center at

2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta

at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept

Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

13450 Cogburn Road

Alpharetta, GA 30004

meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more, go to: <http://www.gars.org/>

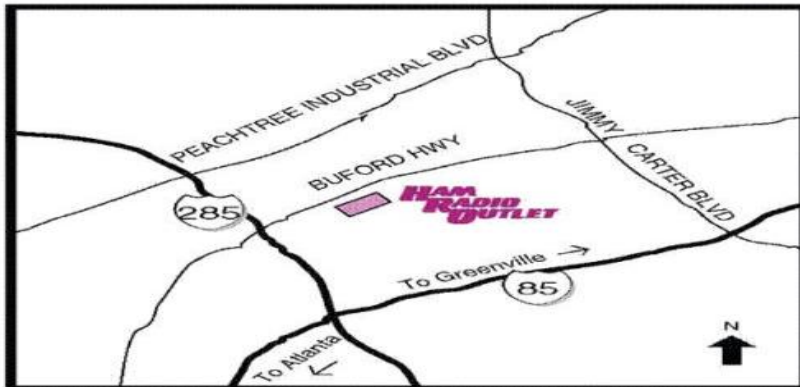
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John, KI4LMA Bill, W5RQR David, AI4XL Tom, KB4HQA
Jim, N1ABM Josh, W4JDH Brian, WD4DX



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GAMLS ID: 7299150
Oak Wind
2,603 sqft.
4 Bedrooms
2 Full Bathrooms
1 Half Bathrooms

Hot buy in great school cluster! Home has 47 foot tall Rohn 25G guyed tower, radio room in the basement is wired with two 240 VAC circuits for amplifiers and has an underground buried conduit for cables to the base of the tower. Rotator, mast, antennas, etc. on the tower are negotiable. Lots of square footage on full basement. 2 story foyer/hardwood floors. Kitchen remodeled 4 years ago with new stainless steel appliances including convection oven, granite counters, stained cabinets, custom tile backsplash. Large breakfast area, dining room, separate living room, family room w/gas fireplace. 3 finished rooms in basement as well as huge workshop/storage area. Ham radio tower will be removed by seller prior to close. Great location near Kroger, 5 minutes to Mall of GA.

View this property at: <http://7299150.GeorgiaMLS.com>

Bill Gambrell
COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BR
Phone: 678-458-3494
Office: 770-623-1900
E-mail: bill.gambrell@coldwellbankeratlanta.com



Information is provided courtesy of COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BR, and is deemed reliable but not

GAMLS ID: 7299150

Oak Wind

2,603 sqft.

4 Bedrooms

2 Full Bathrooms

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For more information, contact:

James A Worsham, Jr

E-mail: w4kxy@bellsouth.net



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From QST November 1950

"A close-up view of the business end of W1LOP Mobile (in 1950). The converter mounted on the steering post is a bandswitching job giving excellent performance on 75, 20, 11 and 10 meters. It is described on page 18 of this issue. The unit at the lower left is a companion 30-watt (2E26 final) bandswitching transmitter with provision for either crystal or VFO operation."

Courtesy of Jim Web — W4NTA

Collector of fine old radio magazines. [Editor]

